THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The potential of site at Banswada, Rajasthan for setting up nuclear power plant in future was evaluated by the Site Selection Committee of the Government. No decision is made regarding this site for setting up of the plant.

(b) to (d) Not applicable.

Revenue collection

†1528. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) the details of total revenue collected by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the year 2007-08 and 2009-10 so far;

(b) whether it is lesser than the year 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The details of total revenue collected by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in respect of Basic Services, interconnect usage charges (I.U.C.) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) in the year 2007-08 and 2009-10 (up to September, 2009) are as follows.

Year	Amount Collected (Rs. in crores)			
	Basic Services	I.U.C.	CMTS	Total
2007-08	15478	5001	10116	30595
2009-10 (Upto September, 2009)	6242	1425	5068	12735

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reason for decline in Revenue since 2006-07, is downward revision of tariff due to competition, surrender of fixed line telephones and migration of customers/traffic to the services of other operators. Therefore, less revenue billed has consequently resulted in lesser recovery compared to the year 2006-07.

The steps taken by BSNL for improving revenue and collections are given in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by BSNL for improving revenue and collections

(A) Steps initiated for increasing revenue are as under:

(1) Competitive and affordable tariffs for mobile services are being offered. The tariffs are being rationalized for basic services by providing variety of suitable plans.

(2) Various value added services, new services and bundling etc. are being provided.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(3) Broadband services are being provided aggressively for promoting Basic Services.

(4) Steps have been initiated to ensure easy availability of products by increasing the sales and distribution channels.

(5) Coverage in rural areas has been increased with the expansion of network.

(6) Efforts are being made for improving the quality of services and customer interface.

(7) Agreements have been signed for leasing of towers with other service providers.

(B) Measures taken for collection of revenue are as under:

(1) Payment reminders through IVRS are being issued to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones. Phones are disconnected as per the schedule in case of non-payment of dues by customers.

(2) Connections remaining disconnected for non-payment are permanently closed after three months from bill issue date and accounts regularized by adjusting available Security deposit.

(3) Graded discount scheme regarding grant of discount to defaulting customers, for clearance of old outstanding dues has been introduced.

(4) Legal proceedings wherever required are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues.

(5) The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective land revenue acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.

(6) Circle-wise and Year-wise target for liquidation of outstanding dues are fixed to get the maximum realization. The progress in this regard is closely monitored.

(7) Heads of Circles have been authorized to Appoint Private Recovery agents on commission basis to assist BSNL in recovery of outstanding revenue. Procedure for settlement of defaulter cases through Lok Adalat has been introduced for recovery of outstanding telephone dues in respect of permanently closed connections.

(8) In addition to the above, during the current year (2009-10), a new recovery scheme under the brand name 'Project Kuber' has been launched to recover the outstanding dues over 3 months to 3 years old through experienced private recovery agents/agencies in respect of closed connections.

R.S. Nataraja Murthy Committee report

1529. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than 2.76 lakhs Gramin Dak Sevaks engaged part-time by the Department of Posts to distribute mail in rural areas;